Legislation to punish managements for non-payment of workers' dues

994. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to bring forward a suitable legislation to punish managements who are not prompt in settling workers' dues; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) There are already suitable provisions in the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 for punishing the employers who default in payment of workers dues relating to provident fund/gratuity. The Government is, however, considering certain proposals for further tightening the existing penal povisions under the EPF Act, as also to provide for compulsory insurance of employers' liability/setting up of a Trust Fund under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, to ensure prompt payment of the workers' dues.

Wages of agricultural labour

995. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to effect improvement in the wages of agricultural labour; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Central Government have also any proposal to bear the burden of medical expenses of the agricultural labour keeping in view the poor economic condition of the farmers, if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Since 1980, the Central Government has revised the minimum wages in agriculture in respect of those employments for which Central Government is the appropriate Government on five occasions, the last revision having been done in February, 1985. No further revision by the Central Government is due at present.

(b) No, Sir. It has not been possible for the Central Government to consider such a proposal for administrative reasons.

खाद्यान्न का उत्पादन

996. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :** क्या खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में खाद्यान्न की वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है और खाद्यान्न की वर्तमान भण्डारण क्षमता क्या है तथा खाद्यान्न की कितनी मात्रा खुले आसमान के नीचे पड़ी है ; और

(ख) भण्डारण की उचित और सस्ती सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने के लिये क्या प्रबंध किये गये हैं ताकि किसान भी अपना खाद्यान्न सही प्रकार से जमाकर सके ?

योजना और खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत पांजा) : (क) फसल वर्ष 1984–85 के दौरान देश में 1462 लाख मीटरी टन खाद्यान्नों का उत्पादन हुआ था और फसल वर्ष 1985–86 में इसके अधिक होने की सम्भावना है। अप्रैल, 1985 से फरवरी, 1986 की अवधि के दौरान 194 लाख मीटरी टन खाद्यान्नों की वसूली होने का अनुमान है। 1–2–1986 की स्थिति के अनुसार भारतीय खाद्य निगम, राज्य सरकारों और उनकी एजेन्सियों के पास लगभग 237 लाख मीटरी टन खाद्यान्नों का स्टाक था। इसके प्रति, भारतीय खाद्य निगम, राज्य सरकारों और उनकी एजेन्सियों के पास लगभग 250 लाख मीटर टन की ढकी हुई भंडारण क्षमता होने का अनुमान है। अनुमान है कि कवर-एवं-प्लिथ (कैप)

व्यवस्था के अधीन लगभग 74 लाख मीटरी टन खाद्यान्नों का स्टाक पड़ा हुआ है।

(ख) किसानों को समर्थन मूल्य देने और खाद्यान्नों का अपना स्टाक बेचने के लिए उनकी मदद करने के लिए सरकारी एजेन्सियों द्वारा समर्थन मूल्यों पर खाद्यान्नों की वसूली की जाती है। वसूल किए गए खाद्यान्नों के लिए भारतीय खाद्य निगम, राज्य सरकारें और उनकी एजेन्सियां भंडारण क्षमता सुलभ करती है। इसके अलावा, सेन्ट्रल वेयरहाउसिंग कारपोरेशन, जोकि इस मंत्रालय का एक उपक्रम है और राज्य भांडागार निगमों, जिनमें सेन्ट्रल वेयरहाउसिंग कारपोरेशन धन लगा रहा है, ने वैज्ञानिक भंडारण सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था की है जोकि किसानों सहित जमाकर्ताओं को उपलब्ध है। सेन्ट्रल वेयरहाउसिंग कारपोरेशन किसानों को भंडारण प्रभारों में 10 प्रतिशत का रिबेट भी देती है।

Employment of child labour in cracker factories at Viva Kasi in Tamil Nadu

997. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of large scale employment of child labour in the cracker factories at Siva Kasi in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent such practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The Employment of Children Act, 1938 *inter alia* bans the employment of children below the age of 14 years in the match and fireworks industry.

Enforcement of the Provisions of the Employment of Children Act, 1938 in the match & fireworks industry, is the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government has been addressing the State Government of Tamil Nadu from time to time to strictly enforce the provisions of the Employment of Children Act.

Bonded labourers in Uttar Pradesh

998. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bonded labourers who have been set free so far in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) how many of them have been rehabilitated; and

(c) what are the plans to rehabilitate the remaining ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) 16,229 as on 1-1-1986.

(b) 13,793.

(c) Annual targets are given to the State Government for rehabilitation of bonded labour. It is expected that all the released bonded labour shall be rehabilitated during the Seventh Plan period for which central assistance on 50:50 basis will be given to the State as per Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labourers.

Advance licences to exporters of natural silk products

999. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether advance licences with duty exemptions are being granted to the exporters of natural silk products;

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that the export obligations are fulfilled and the exporters do not import raw silk under various other provisions of the Import Policy of 1983-84 and 1984-85?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.